

## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS Great Plains Regional Office 115 Fourth Avenue S.E., Suite 400 Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401

IN REPLY REISER TO: DESCRM MC-208

AUG 0 9 2012

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO:

Superintendent, Fort Berthold Agency

FROM: ACTING

Regional Director, Great Plains Region

SUBJECT:

Environmental Assessment Addendum and Finding of No Significant Impact

In compliance with the regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, an Addendum has been completed and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been issued. The Addendum authorizes land use for an access road connecting the Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H well pad to the existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H access road on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation.

All the necessary requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act have been completed. Attached for your files is a copy of the EA Addendum, FONSI and Notice of Availability. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations require that there be a public notice of availability of the FONSI (40 C.F.R. Section 1506.6(b)). Please post the attached notice of availability at the Agency and Tribal buildings for 30 days.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Bercier, Regional Environmental Scientist, Division of Environment, Safety and Cultural Resources Management, at (605) 226-7656.

Attachment

cc: Tex Hall, Chairman, Three Affiliated Tribes (with attachment)
Elgin Crows Breast, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (with attachment)
Derek Enderud, BLM, Bureau of Land Management (with attachment)
Jason Bivens, SWCA (with attachment)
Carson Hood/Fred Fox. MHA Energy Dept. (with attachment)
Jonathon Shelman, Corps of Engineers
Jeff Hunt, Fort Berthold Agency

#### Finding of No Significant Impact

#### Petro-Hunt, LLC

Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for an Access Road Connecting the Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H Well Pad to the Existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H Access Road

#### Fort Berthold Indian Reservation Dunn County, North Dakota

The U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has received a proposal for the construction and installation of an access road connecting the Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H well pad to the existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H access road. Petro-Hunt would utilize a 100-foot-wide temporary construction right-of-way (ROW) to install the access road and maintain a 66-foot-wide permanent ROW on the Fort Berthold Reservation.

The Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H access road would originate from the existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H access road in the NE¼ NE¼ Section 3, Township (T) 147 North (N), Range (R) 94 West (W), then run north into the SE¼ SE¼ Section 34, T148N, R94W. Associated federal actions by BIA include determinations of impacts and effects regarding environmental resources for developments on tribal lands.

The potential of the proposed actions to impact the human environment is analyzed in the attached addendum to an existing EA, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Based on the recently completed addendum to the EA, I have determined that the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. No Environmental Impact Statement is required for any portion of the proposed activities.

This determination is based on the following factors:

- 1. Agency and public involvement solicited for the preceding NEPA document was sufficient to ascertain potential environmental concerns associated with the currently proposed project.
- 2. Protective and prudent measures were designed to minimize impacts to air, water, soil, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, public safety, water resources, and cultural resources. The remaining potential for impacts was disclosed for both the proposed actions and the No Action alternative.
- 3. Guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been fully considered regarding wildlife impacts, particularly in regard to threatened or endangered species. This guidance includes the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 et seq.), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d, 54 Stat. 250), Executive Order 13186 "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds", and the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).
- 4. The proposed actions are designed to avoid adverse effects to historic, archaeological, cultural and traditional properties, sites and practices. Compliance with the procedures of the National Historic Preservation Act is complete.
- 5. Environmental justice was fully considered.
- 6. Cumulative effects to the environment are either mitigated or minimal.
- 7. No regulatory requirements have been waived or require compensatory mitigation measures.
- 8. The proposed projects will improve the socio-economic condition of the affected Indian community.

ACTING Regional Director

Date

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT Addendum

**United States Bureau of Indian Affairs** 

Great Plains Regional Office Aberdeen, South Dakota



#### Petro-Hunt, LLC

Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for an Access Road Connecting the Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H Well Pad to the Existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H Access Road

Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

August 2012

For information contact:
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Plains Regional Office
Division of Environment, Safety and Cultural Resources Management
115 4th Avenue SE, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401
(605) 226-7656

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3H, -4H, -5H access road alignment.

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## **Appendix**

A Plats, Layout, and Right-of-Way for Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H Access Road

## 1. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

Petro-Hunt, LLC (Petro-Hunt) is proposing this action for the purpose of authorizing land use by Petro-Hunt for the construction and installation of an access road connecting the Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H well pad to the existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H access road. Petro-Hunt would utilize a 100-foot-wide temporary construction right-of-way (ROW) to install the access road and maintain a 66-foot-wide permanent ROW.

Developments have been proposed on land held in trust by the United States in Dunn County, North Dakota. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is the surface management agency for potentially affected tribal lands and individual allotments. The BIA also holds title to subsurface mineral rights. The economic development of available resources and associated BIA actions are consistent with BIA's general mission. Leasing and development of mineral resources offer substantial economic benefits to the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations and to individual tribal members.

#### 2. Authorities

Oil and gas exploration and development activities are conducted under authority of the Indian Mineral Leasing Act of 1938 (25 United States Code [USC] 396a, et seq.), the Indian Mineral Development Act of 1982 (25 USC 2101, et seq.), and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 USC 15801, et seq.).

## 3. Legal Land Description for Proposed Action

The Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H access road would originate from the existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H access road in the NE¼ NE½ Section 3, Township (T) 147 North (N), Range (R) 94 West (W), then run north into the SE½ SE½ Section 34, T148N, R94W. The access road would then turn east onto fee land and terminate at the proposed well pad in the SW½ SW½ Section 35, T148N, R94W.

## 4. Scope of Work for Proposed Action

Petro-Hunt proposes to construct and install an access road that would join the existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H access road to the Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/ Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H well pad. Portions of the access road as well as the entire well pad are proposed on fee land with no trust land involved. Approximately 505 feet (32%) of the proposed 1,581-foot-long access road would be located on trust land. All construction disturbances would occur within a purchased 100-foot-wide temporary ROW and permanent surface disturbance would occur within a 66-foot-wide ROW between the existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H access road and the point at which trust land crosses into fee land. The Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H access road has been previously surveyed for impacts to natural and cultural resources with no significant findings. In total, approximately 1.16 acres would be temporarily disturbed, and 0.76 acre permanently

disturbed, as a result of activities associated with the construction of the proposed access road on trust land. Plats of the proposed alignment are provided in Appendix A.

### 5. Surveys

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted natural resource surveys on 3.48 acres of trust land for threatened and endangered species habitat, migratory bird nesting habitat, bald and golden eagles and nests, and wetlands/waterbodies on June 2, 2011, and May 3, 2012. BIA Environmental Specialist Chris McLaughlin was present for on-site inspections on May 3, 2012, to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures would be taken to avoid disturbance of sensitive resource areas. Migratory bird habitat is prevalent in the survey area and Petro-Hunt has committed to following one of the following three listed mitigation procedures in order to reduce the potential for impact on migratory birds and their nests: 1) conduct construction outside of the migratory bird breeding season (i.e., July 16–January 31); 2) regularly mow vegetation in the ROW prior to February 1 and maintain through July 15; or 3) conduct a field survey for nesting migratory birds within five days of construction commencement. SWCA natural resource specialists did not observe any wetlands within the survey area.

The Class III cultural resource inventory for the entire access road and well pad was conducted by SWCA on June 2, 2011, and May 3, 2012, using an intensive pedestrian methodology. The area surveyed includes a 45.80-acre block survey for the well pad and two alternative well pad locations: a 300-foot-wide survey corridor centered on the proposed 1,581-foot-long access road centerline, totaling 11.06 acres; and a 300-foot-wide survey corridor centered on an alternative access road, totaling 2.59 acres. This second alternative has been abandoned as a result of a land owner issue and the well pad location shifting from Section 2, T147N, R94W, to Section 35, T148N, R94W (Schleicher 2012<sup>1</sup>). In aggregate total, 59.45 non-overlapping acres (30.75 acres of trust land and 28.70 acres of fee land) were inventoried for this project. No historic properties were located that appear to possess the quality of integrity and meet at least one of the criteria (Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 60.6) for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

#### 6. Potential Effects

Potential direct impacts to cultural resource sites would occur as a result of disturbance and/or the loss of sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. However, no cultural resources were identified within the surveyed area, therefore no direct or indirect impact to cultural resource sites is anticipated to occur.

Potential direct impacts to natural resources may include the loss of native vegetation and wildlife habitat, soil disturbance, and erosion during construction that may adversely affect air and water quality. Impacts would be mitigated by using best management practices during

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Schleicher, Jolene. 2012. A Class I and Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of the Petro-Hunt Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H and #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H Well Pad and Access Road, Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, Dunn County, North Dakota. SWCA Environmental Consultants. Bismarck, ND.

construction to minimize disturbance. Once construction activities are completed, reclamation would take place within six months and would include the return of topsoil and contouring, and seeding of native vegetation.

Potential indirect impacts include noise and other disturbances to wildlife during construction and the introduction of noxious weeds. Impacts would be mitigated by avoiding any federally listed threatened or endangered species or wetlands, avoiding nesting migratory birds, implementing best management practices to control the introduction of noxious weeds, and minimizing the length of time of construction activities. These mitigation measures are consistent with the approved National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, which received a finding of no significant impact (September 2009).

#### 7. Reclamation

#### **Interim Reclamation**

Reclamation would continue over the life of the access road and would include the return of topsoil, and contouring and seeding of native vegetation in the road ditch. Initial reclamation would be required six months after construction, if environmentally feasible, and then following any maintenance work or additions of infrastructure. Reclamation would be required before final abandonment of the decommissioned access road. A successful reclamation would at all times be the responsibility of the operator.

Applicable short- and long-term best management practices would be used to minimize and control erosion in disturbed areas. To reduce compaction, the access road ROW would be plowed before the stockpiled topsoil is distributed.

The disturbed areas would be reclaimed and contoured as soon as possible after construction is complete (fall/spring). The access road ROW would be covered with stockpiled topsoil and seeded with a seed mixture determined by the BIA. Petro-Hunt would control noxious weeds within the ROW and other applicable facilities by approved chemical or mechanical methods. If seeding of the ROW does not occur due to growing season constraints, Petro-Hunt will deploy approved weed-free hay across the entire ROW. The presence of hay across the ROW would reduce the potential for excessive erosion as a result of spring snow melt and precipitation.

The entire ROW would be monitored for erosion, subsidence, and noxious weeds. In areas where problems are found to occur, reclamation efforts would continue until the BIA feels the ROW is successfully reclaimed. Reclamation is considered successful when:

- seeded areas are established;
- adjacent vegetative communities spread back into the disturbed areas; and
- noxious weeds are under control.

If after two growing seasons the new seeding is not successful, the BIA may require additional efforts to establish vegetation. A noxious weed survey was conducted on the access

road ROW and well pad area, prior to the construction commencing. The BIA has developed a weed management plan to treat known or likely to occur noxious weed species.

#### **Final Reclamation**

Final reclamation would occur when the access road is decommissioned. All disturbed areas would be reclaimed, reflecting the BIA's view of oil and gas exploration and production as temporary intrusions on the landscape. The access road would be leveled or backfilled as necessary, scarified, recontoured, and seeded. Exceptions to these reclamation measures might occur if the BIA approves assignment of the access road either to the BIA roads inventory or to concurring surface allottees.

## 8. Applicable NEPA Document(s)

Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact: Petro-Hunt, LLC Four Bakken Formation Exploratory Oil Wells at Four Locations: Fort Berthold #147-94-1A-12-1H, Fort Berthold #147-94-2A-11-1H, Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H, and Fort Berthold #148-94-35D-26-1H (September 2009).

## 9. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

This document has identified the above-mentioned previously prepared NEPA document, which adequately describes the environmental consequences of the newly proposed action described herein, and meets the following NEPA Adequacy Criteria.

- 1. The proposed action is substantially the same action and at the site specifically analyzed in the existing NEPA document.
- 2. The range of alternatives is reasonable with respect to the current proposed action in the existing NEPA document, which appropriately considers and analyzes current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values.
- 3. The existing analysis and conclusions are adequate in the existing NEPA document. The analysis is still valid in light of new studies or resource assessment information.
- 4. The methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document continues to be appropriate for the proposed action.
- 5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document.
- 6. The cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action are unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document.
- 7. A 30-day comment period involving public input and interagency review was used in the development of the existing NEPA document.

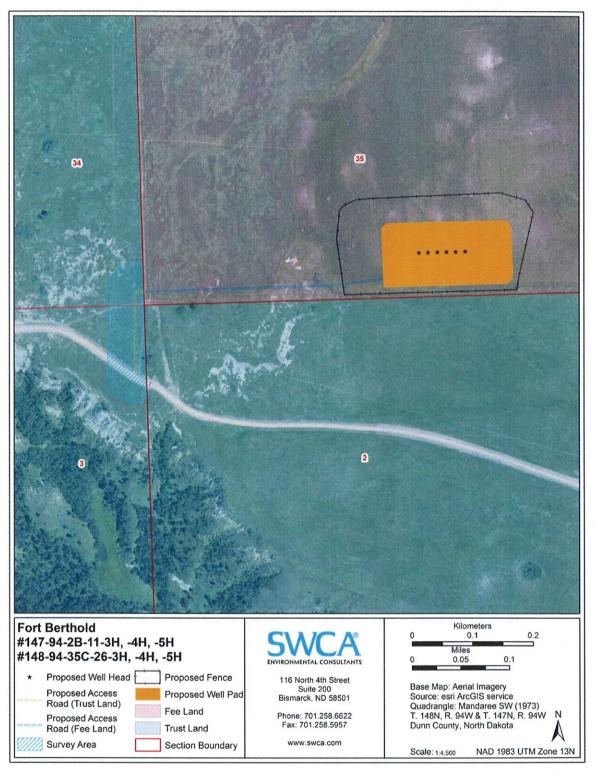
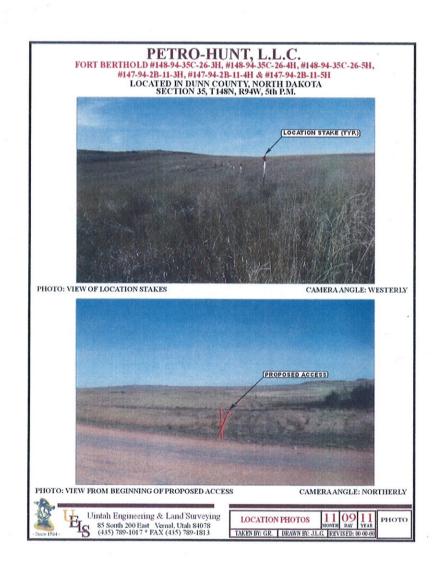


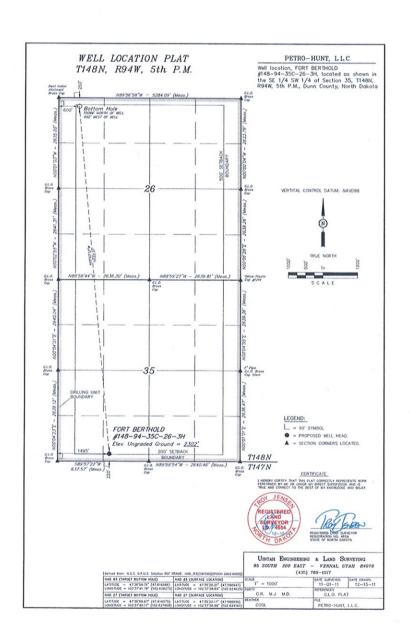
Figure 1. Proposed Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H access road alignment.

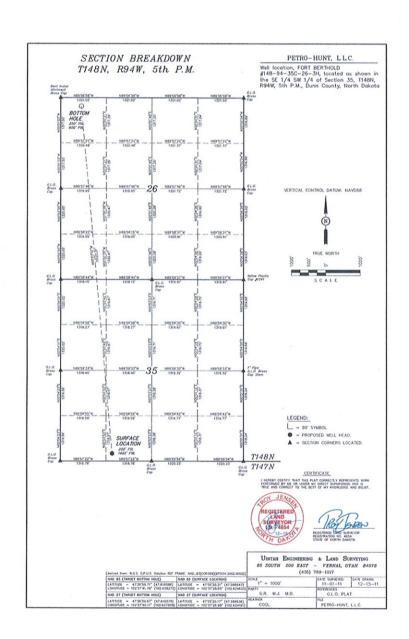
Addendum to Environmental Assessment to Authorize Land Use for an Access Road Connecting the
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the Existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H Access Road (August 2012)

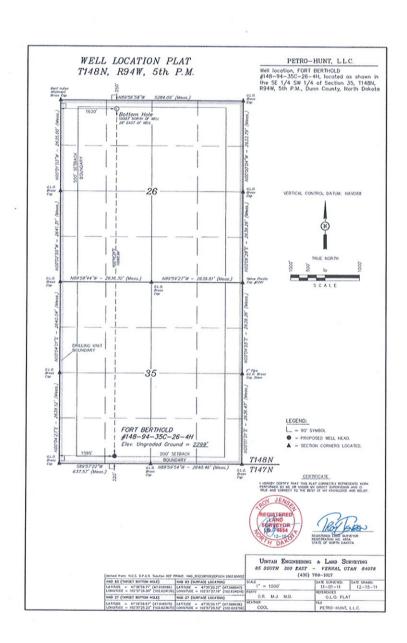
## APPENDIX A

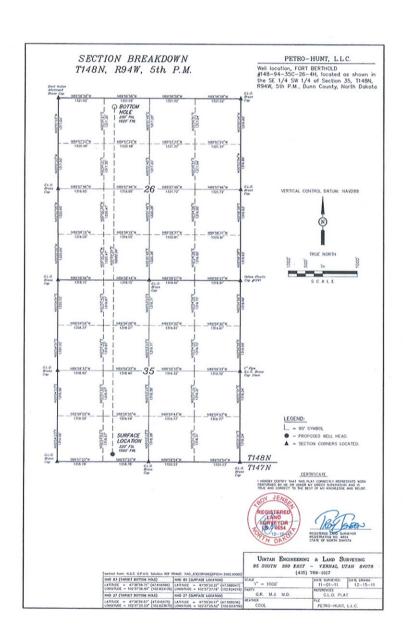
Plats, Layout, and Right-of-Way for the Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H Access Road

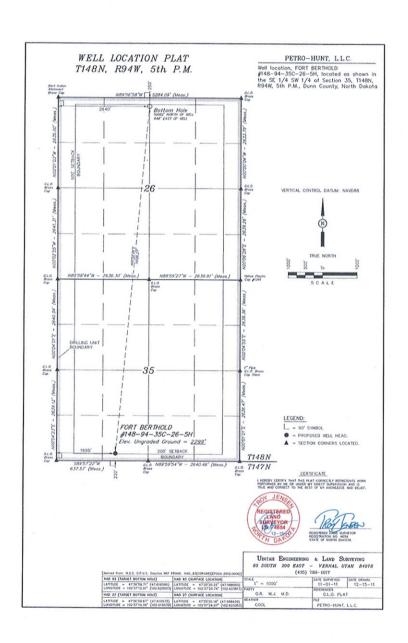


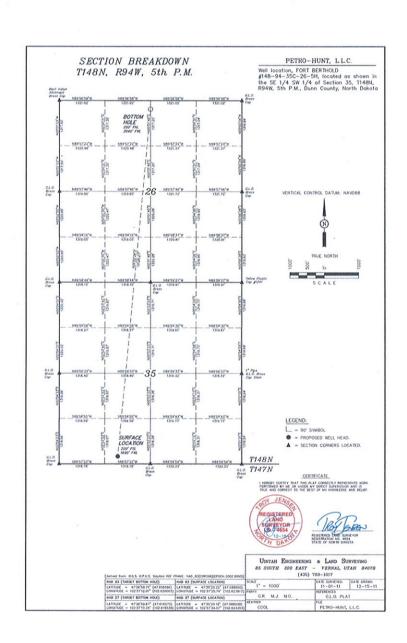


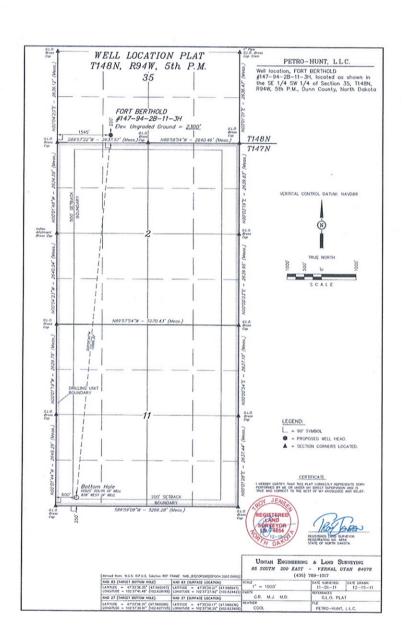


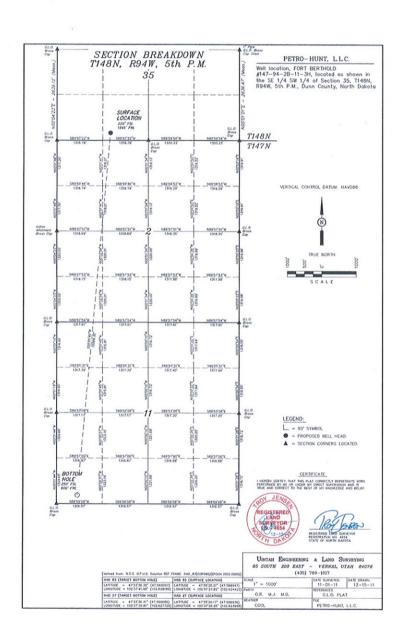


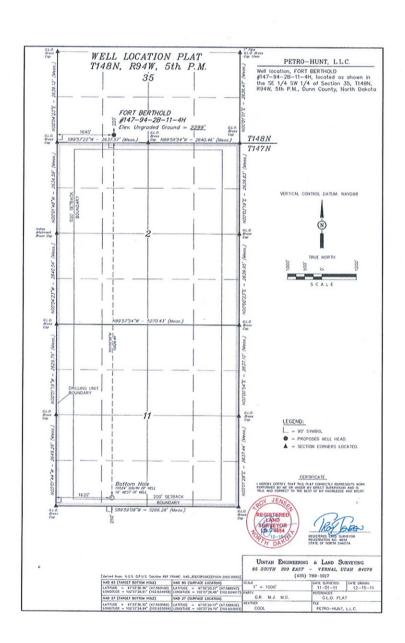


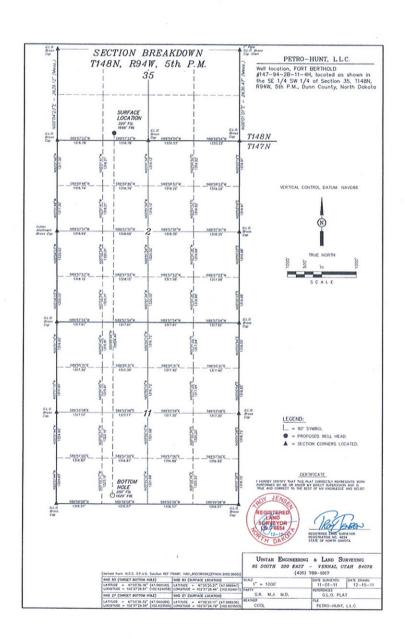


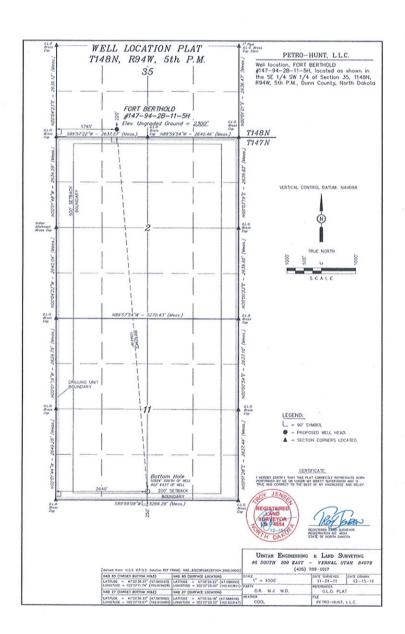


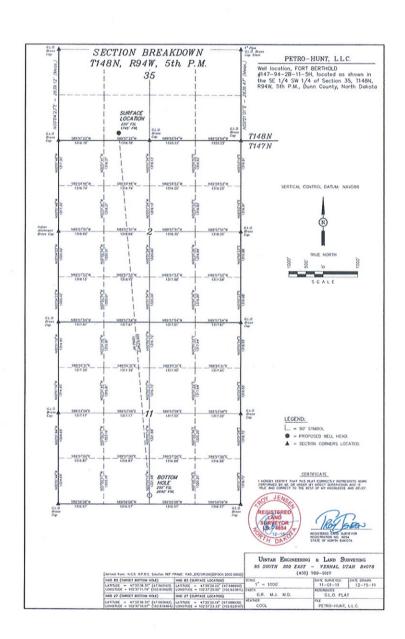


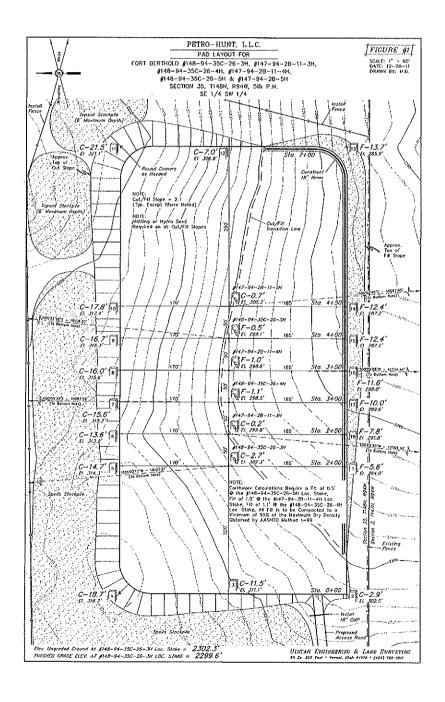


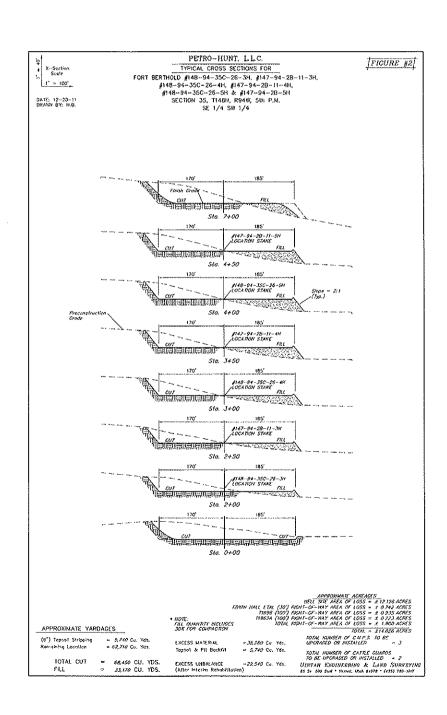












#### PETRO-HUNT, L.L.C.

SCALE: NONE DATE: 12-20-1 DRAWN BY, M.D. SITE QUANTITIES FOR
FORT BERTHOLD #148-94-35C-25-3H, #147-94-28-11-3H, #148-94-35C-26-3H, #147-94-26-11-4H, #148-94-35C-26-5H & #147-94-26-5H
SECTION 35. THEN, R94W, 5th P.M.
SE 1/4 SW 1/4

Elex Ungraded Ground At #148-94-35C-26-3H Loc. Stake = 2302.3' FINISHED GRADE ELEX. AT #148-94-35C-26-3H LOC. STAKE = 2299.6'

#### APPROXIMATE YARDAGES

(6") Topsoil Stripping = 5,740 Cu. Yds. Remaining Location = 62,710 Cu. Yds.

TOTAL CUT = 68.450 CU, YDS.
FRI.L = 33.170 CU, YDS.
(FILL QUANTITY INCLUDES
30% FOR COMPACTION)

EXCESS MATERIAL #.35,280 Cu. Yds.
Topsoil #.35,240 Cu. Yds.

EXCESS UNBALANCE #.29,540 Cu. Yds.
(After Interim Rehabilitation)

#### APPROXIMATE ACREAGES

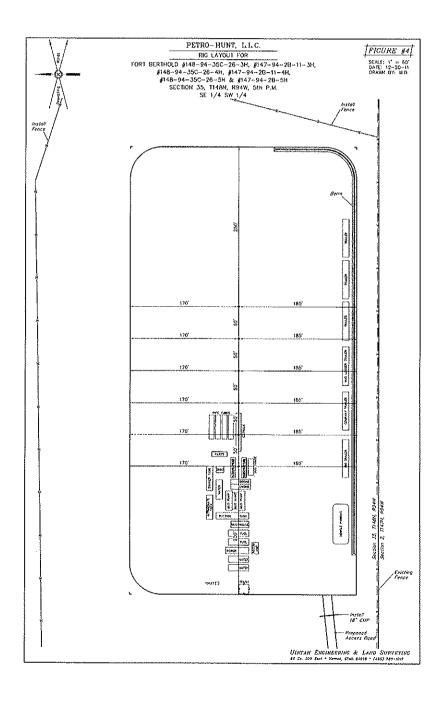
DISTURBED AREA FROM PAD = ± 10.825 ACRES

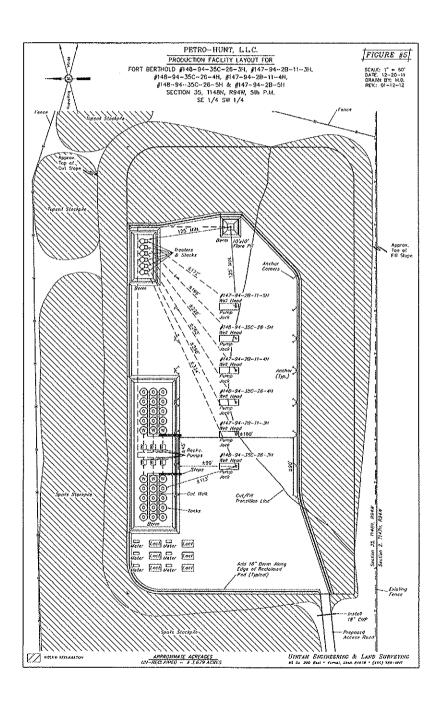
APPROXIMATE ACREAGES
WELL SITE AREA OF LOSS (FENCED AREA) = ±12,126 ACRES
EDWIN HALL ETAL (30') RIGHT-OF-WAY AREA OF LOSS = ±0.742 ACRES
11688 (100') RIGHT-OF-WAY AREA OF LOSS = ±0.215 ACRES
119624 (100') RIGHT-OF-WAY AREA OF LOSS = ±0.215 ACRES
1074L RIGHT-OF-WAY AREA OF LOSS = ±0.215 ACRES
1074L RIGHT-OF-WAY AREA OF LOSS = ±1.900 ACRES

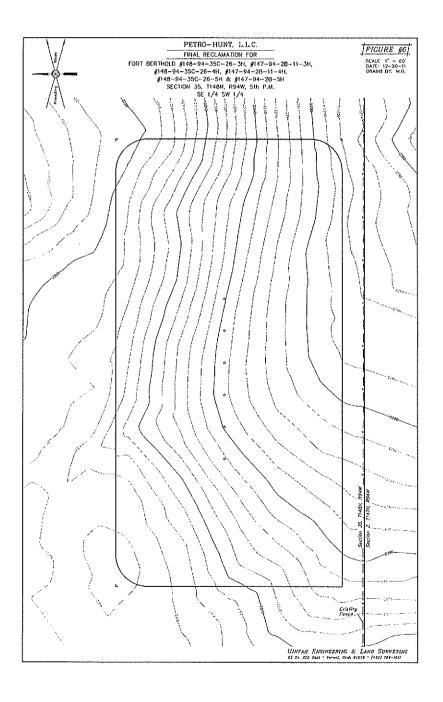
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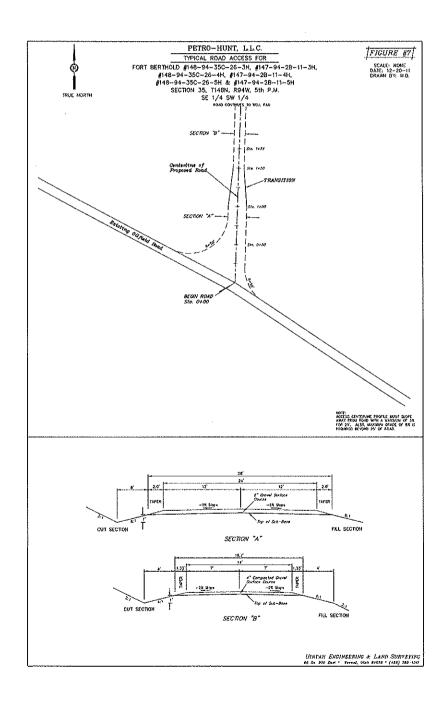
Unitah Engineering & Land Surveying

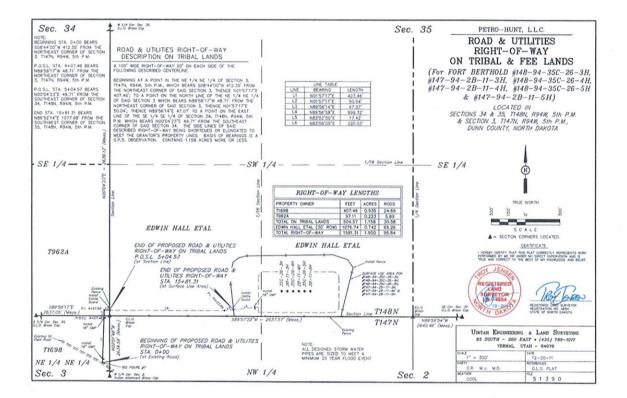
|FICURE #3|











PETRO-HUNT, L.L.C.
FORT BERTHOLD #148-94-35C-26-3H,
#147-94-2B-11-3H, #148-94-35C-26-4H,
#147-94-2B-11-4H, #149-94-35C-26-5H
& #147-94-2B-11-5H ROAD & UTILITIES RICHT-OF-WAY
SECTIONS 34 & 35, T148N, R94W, 5th P.M.
& SECTION 3, T147N, R94W, 5th P.M.

#### TOTAL ROAD & UTILITIES RIGHT-OF-WAY ON TRIBAL LANDS

TOTAL LENGTH OF RIGHT-OF-WAY IS 504.57' OR 0.096 MILES. WIDTH OF RIGHT-OF-WAY IS 100' (50' PERPENDICULAR ON EACH SIDE OF CENTER LINE). CONTAINS 1.158 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

#### ENGINEER'S AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF MONTANA
COUNTY OF RICHLAND

TROY JENSEN, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN DEPOSES AND STATES THAT HE IS THE REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR, FOR PETRO-HUNT, L.L.C., THAT THESE SURVEYS WERE MADE BY HIM (OR UNDER HIS SUPERVISION): THAT HE HAS EXAMINED THE FIELD NOTES OF THE SURVEYS OF THE ROAD AND UTILITIES RIGHT-OF-WAY AS DESCRIBED AND SHOWN ON THIS MAP, THAT THIS MAP WAS PREPARED UNDER HIS DIRECTION FROM SAID FIELD NOTES; AND THAT SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY, 0.096 MILES IN LENGTH BEGINNING AND ENDING AS SHOWN ON THIS MAP IS ACCURATELY REPRESENTED.



REGISTRATION NO. 4654

#### APPLICANT'S CERTIFICATE

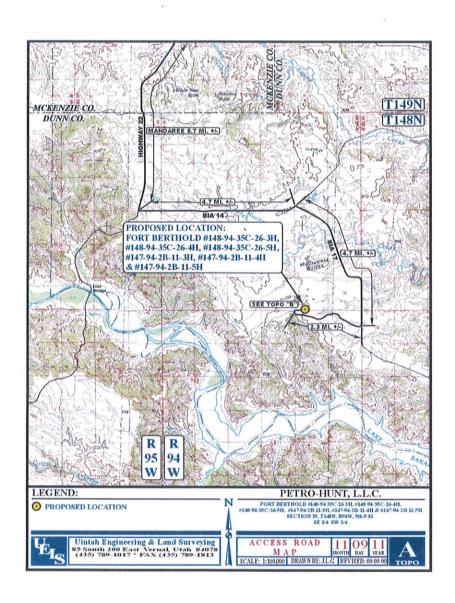
I. DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I AM THE AGENT FOR PETRO-HUNT, LL.C., HEREINAFTER DESIGNATED THE APPLICANT; THAT TROY JENSEN WHO SUBSCRIBED TO THE FOREGOING AFFIDANT, IS EMPLOYED BY THE APPLICANT AS A LAND SURVEYOR AND THAT HE WAS DIRECTED BY THE APPLICANT TO SURVEY THE LOCATION OF THIS ROAD AND UTILITIES RIGHT—OF—WAY, 0.996 MILES IN LENGTH BEGINNING AT STA. 0.400 AND UTILITIES RIGHT—OF—WAY ARE ACCURATELY REPRESENTED ON THIS MAP; THAT SUCH SURVEY AS REPRESENTED ON THIS MAP HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE APPLICANT AS THE DEFINITE LOCATION OF THE RIGHT—OF—WAY THEREBY SHOWS; AND THAT THE MAP HAS BEEN PREPARED TO BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OR HIS DULY AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE AS PART OF THE APPLICANT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, WITH THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, AND REPAIR IMPROVEMENTS, THEREON AND THEREOVER, FOR SUCH PURPOSES, AND WITH THE FURTHER RIGHT IN THE APPLICANT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, WITH THIS RIGHT—OF—WAY DIFFERENT AND THE APPLICANT, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS TO TRANSFER THIS RIGHT—OF—WAY BY ASSIGNMENT, GRANT, OR OTHERWISE.

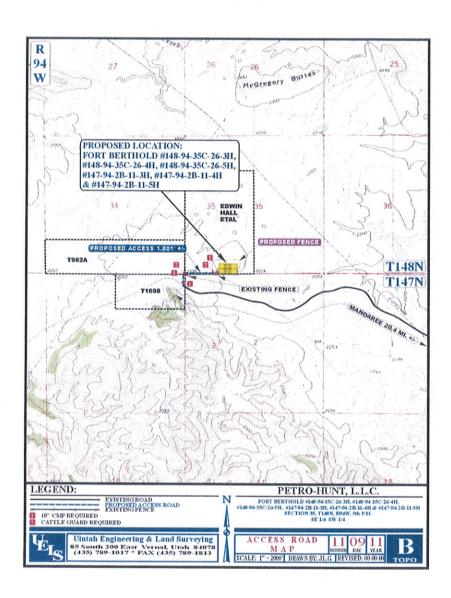
APPLICANT		

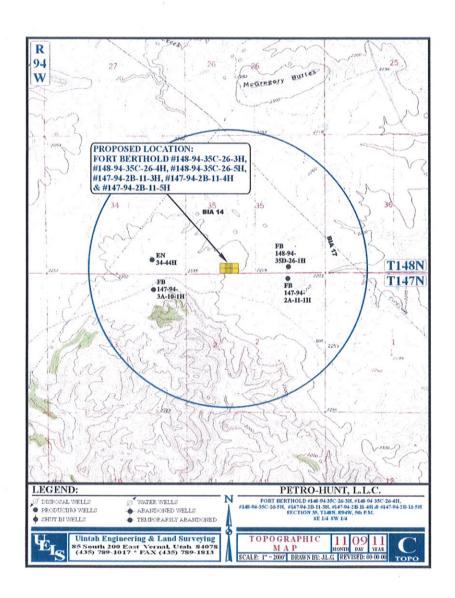
# PETRO-HUNT, L.L.C. FORT BERTHOLD #148-94-35C-26-3H, #148-94-35C-26-4H, #148-94-35C-26-5H, #147-94-2B-11-3H, #147-94-2B-11-5H SECTION 35, T148N, R94W, 5<sup>th</sup> P.M.

PROCEED IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION FROM MANDAREE, NORTH DAKOTA ALONG BIA 12 APPROXIMATELY 1.3 MILES TO THE JUNCTION OF THIS ROAD AND HIGHWAY 22 TO THE SOUTH; TURN LEFT AND PROCEED IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION APPROXIMATELY 7.4 MILES TO THE JUNCTION OF THIS ROAD AND BIA 14 TO THE EAST; TURN LEFT AND PROCEED IN AN EASTERLY, THEN NORTHEASTERLY DIRECTION APPROXIMATELY 4.7 MILES TO THE JUNCTION OF THIS ROAD AND AN BIA 17 TO THE SOUTHEAST; TURN RIGHT AND PROCEED IN A SOUTHEASTERLY, THEN SOUTHERLY DIRECTION APPROXIMATELY 4.7 MILES TO THE JUNCTION OF THIS ROAD AND AN EXISTING ROAD TO THE WEST; TURN RIGHT AND PROCEED IN A WESTERLY, THEN NORTHWESTERLY DIRECTION APPROXIMATELY 2.3 MILES TO THE BEGINNING OF THE PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD TO THE NORTH; FOLLOW ROAD FLAGS IN A NORTHERLY, THEN EASTERLY DIRECTION APPROXIMATELY 1,801' TO THE PROPOSED LOCATION.

TOTAL DISTANCE FROM MANDAREE, NORTH DAKOTA TO THE PROPOSED WELL LOCATION IS APPROXIMATELY 20.7 MILES.







# Notice of Availability and Appeal Rights Petro-Hunt, LLC: Access Road Connecting the Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -

4H, -5H Well Pad to the Existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H Access Road

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is planning to issue administrative approvals for an Access Road Connecting the Fort Berthold #147-94-2B-11-3H, -4H, -5H/Fort Berthold #148-94-35C-26-3H, -4H, -5H Well Pad to the Existing Fort Berthold #147-94-3A-10-1H Access Road on the Fort Berthold Reservation as shown on the attached map. Construction by Petro-Hunt is expected to begin in 2012.

An environmental assessment (EA) determined that proposed activities will not cause significant impacts to the human environment. An environmental impact statement is not required. Contact Earl Silk, Superintendent at 701-627-6570 for more information and/or copies of the EA and the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The FONSI is only a finding on environmental impacts – it is not a decision to proceed with an action and cannot be appealed. BIA's decision to proceed with administrative actions can be appealed until September 7, 2012, by contacting:

**United States Department of the Interior** Office of Hearings and Appeals **Interior Board of Indian Appeals** 801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Va 22203.

Procedural details are available from the BIA Fort Berthold Agency at 701-627-6570.

#### Project locations.

